This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A seat belt system comprising:

a composite cable assembly comprising a flexible cable having a first and a second end, one of the first and second ends connectable to a first mechanism and the other of the first and second ends connectable to a second mechanism, the cable comprising at least one single strand of wires, each strand having intra-wire spaces and a fill material consisting of fusible metal or metal alloy such as ~~molten~~ solder, the fusible metal or metal alloy ~~molten solder~~ disposed within intra-wire spaces along a first length of the at least one strand, the fusible metal or metal alloy when hardened increasing ~~fill material after being coated on the cable is configured to harden so as to change~~ the amount of energy needed to bend the coated portion of the cable in comparison to the uncoated portion of the cable.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The system as defined in Claim 1~~

A seat belt system comprising:

a composite cable assembly comprising a flexible cable having a first and a second end, one of the first and second ends connectable to a first mechanism and the other of the first and second ends connectable to a second mechanism, the cable comprising at least one single strand of wires, each strand having intra-wire spaces and a fill material consisting of molten solder, the molten solder disposed within intra-wire spaces along a first length of the at least one strand, the fill material after being coated on the cable is configured to harden so as to change the amount of energy needed to bend that portion of the cable coated with fill material in comparison to the uncoated portion of the cable;

wherein the first mechanism to which the cable is connected includes a housing having a movable piston associated with a pretensioner and the second mechanism to which the cable is connected is one of a buckle and a buckle-connecting member,

wherein the coated portion of the cable, prior to activation of the pretensioner, is remote from the housing.

3. (Currently amended) The system as defined in Claim 2 [[1]] wherein the fill material also covers the exterior of the cable and is of a predetermined thickness.

4. (Previously amended) The system as defined in Claim 3 wherein the molten solder upon cooling has a predetermined thickness over the coated portion of the cable, and wherein the energy needed to bend the coated portion of cable is greater than the energy needed to bend an uncoated portion of the cable.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The system as defined in Claim 2 [[1]] wherein the fill material includes a) an alloy comprising molten: lead, tin, silver, bismuth, copper~~,~~ or antimony.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The system as defined in Claim 1~~

A seat belt system comprising:

a composite cable assembly comprising a flexible cable having a first and a second end, one of the first and second ends connectable to a first mechanism and the other of the first and second ends connectable to a second mechanism, the cable comprising at least one single strand of wires, each strand having intra-wire spaces and a fill material consisting of molten solder, the molten solder disposed within intra-wire spaces along a first length of the at least one strand, the fill material after being coated on the cable is configured to harden so as to change the amount of energy needed to bend that portion of the cable coated with fill material in comparison to the uncoated portion of the cable;

wherein the cable is configured as a component of a buckle pretensioner, the pretensioner including a curved path about which the cable is pulled, one end of the cable extending from the pretensioner connected to a buckle, and wherein the fill

material is located upon the cable at least between the curved path and the buckle, wherein movement of the coated portion of the cable about the curved path decelerates movement of the cable.

8. (Previously presented) The system as defined in Claim 7 wherein the cable assembly includes a plurality of strands with intra-strand spaces between each strand.

9. (Previously presented) The system as defined in Claim 8 wherein the fill material fills intra-wire spaces as well as the intra-strand spaces.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) A vehicle occupant restraint system, including:

a seat belt pretensioner comprising

a curved cable guide and a flexible wire cable, the wire cable configured to be slidably movable ~~though~~ through the cable guide about an arcuate path defined by the cable guide, the wire cable having a first portion arranged along a first direction in relation to the cable guide, a second portion arranged along a second direction in relation to the cable guide, the first and second directions spaced apart by an acute angle, the wire cable includes a third portion initially bent about the arcuate path of the cable guide, the wire cable configured so that as the first portion is moved in the first direction the second portion is moved toward and in contact with the arcuate path that was initially taken up by the third portion, the wire cable including stiffening means applied to the second portion of the wire cable, for making the second portion of the wire cable more difficult to bend in comparison to other portions of the wire cable remote from the stiffening means~~-~~;

and wherein the stiffening means includes a solder that spreads through intra-wire spaces in the cable and which covers exposed surfaces of the wire cable and wherein the solder comprises tin configured to remain pliable within a temperature range of –40 degrees F and 120 degrees F.~~.~~

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) A vehicle occupant restraint system, including:

a seat belt pretensioner comprising

a cable guide defining a curved path;

a flexible composite cable disposed about the curved path of the cable guide, the composite cable comprising at least one strand of wires, the wire strand having intra-wire spaces, and an energy dissipating coating filling the intra-wire spaces, wherein a portion of the at least one wire strand is dipped in a solder which flows in the intra-wire spaces, the solder later, in time, hardening about the cable;

first means for moving the cable about the curved path of the cable guide;

wherein the at least one wire strand has a determinable level of rigidity in uncoated solder regions, wherein the solder is configured to increase the level of rigidity of the cable in solder coated regions compared to the rigidity of uncoated regions thereby taking more energy to bend the coated regions of the cable about the cable guide in response to movement of the first means, the bending of the solder coated regions of the cable generating a force tending to retard the motion of the first means.

14. (Previously presented) The system as defined in Claim 13 wherein the energy dissipating coating is applied to a selected portion of the cable between the cable guide and a seat belt buckle.

15. (Previously presented) The system as defined in Claim 14 wherein the coating is within a portion of the wire strand cable initially positioned in the vicinity of the cable guide.

16. (Currently amended) A method of <u>covering a single strand of wire</u> ~~making the system of Claim 1~~, the method comprising the following steps:

a) providing a length of at least one single strand of wires, the at least one strand of wires having a measurable stiffness to bending;

b) dipping a portion of the at least one single strand of wires into a liquid fusible metal or metal alloy ~~material~~ capable of filling ~~the~~ inter-wire spaces ~~by capillary action~~;

c) permitting the fusible metal or metal alloy ~~liquid material~~ to solidify thereby increasing the stiffness of the impregnated length of at least one single strand of wires and thereby forming the composite cable.

17. (Previously presented) The method as defined in Claim 16 wherein the cable is metal and wherein the liquid material is a molten solder.

18. (Currently amended) The method as defined in Claim 16 wherein the cable is metal and wherein the fusible metal or metal alloy ~~liquid material~~ is one of: ~~a)~~ an alloy comprising molten tin, lead, silver, bismuth, copper, antimony or selenium~~, b) a resin, and c) an epoxy~~.

19. – 25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) The system as defined in Claim 2 [[1]] wherein the molten solder comprises ~~consists of~~ tin that spreads through intra-wire spaces in the cable and which covers the wires ~~via capillary action~~ and wherein the molten solder upon solidifying is pliable ~~within a temperature range of –40 degrees F and 120 degrees F~~.

27. (Currently amended) A vehicle occupant restraint system, including:

a seat belt pretensioner comprising

a curved cable guide, a flexible wire cable slidably movable ~~though~~ through the cable guide about an arcuate path defined by the cable guide, and a powered mechanism for moving the cable, the flexible wire cable having a first portion arranged along a first direction, a second portion arranged along a second direction, the first and second directions separated by an acute angle, the flexible wire cable ~~include~~ including a third portion bent about the arcuate path of the cable guide, the flexible wire cable configured so the first portion can be moved in the first direction by the powered mechanism, thereby causing the second portion to move into contact with the arcuate

path initially taken up by the third portion, and urging the second portion to move about at least a portion of the arcuate path, at least a portion of the second portion of flexible wire cable adjacent the cable guide is coated by dipping the flexible wire cable in ~~with~~ a liquid fusible metal or metal alloy ~~solder~~ configured to increase ~~increasing~~ the stiffness of the flexible wire cable to bending in comparison with an uncoated portion of the wire cable, the coated portion of the wire cable brought into contact with the cable guide as the flexible wire cable is moved ~~creates~~ creating a force tending to decelerate movement of the flexible wire cable.

28. (Previously presented) The systems according to Claim 27 wherein a portion of the third portion of the wire cable is coated with a solder.